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U.S. Frees One of Five In Plane Export Trial

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U.S. Attorney John T. Curtin confirmed Saturday that the government has dropped charges against one of five men indicted by a federal grand jury in a conspiracy to export seven B25 bombers to Portugal illegally.

Curtin said Woodrow W. Roderick, 48, a former Winnipeg, Man., businessman now living in Tucson, Ariz., was freed by Judge John O. Henderson of U.S. District Court, who acted on a government motion.

The action came just before a weekend recess in the trial of Roderick, Henri di Montmarin, a French businessman, and John R. Hawke, a former Royal Air Force pilot now of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Curtin, who is prosecuting the case, said the dismissal motion arose because certain evidence involving Roderick's role in the plan was declared inadmissible by Henderson.

"In view of the fact that the remainder of our evidence did not concern Roderick, the motion was made Friday," Curtin added.

The trial will enter its third week when testimony resumes Tuesday.

Charges against another of those indicted, Keat E. Griggers, a Jamestown, Calif., aircraft mechanic, were dropped just before the trial began. He later testified as a government witness.

The fifth man, Gregory R. Board, 45, of Tucson, reportedly left the country before he could be arrested.

The government charges that the men flew the bombers to Portugal from May to September, 1965, without securing federal licenses. Two of the flights originated at the Rochester-Monroe County Airport, it said.